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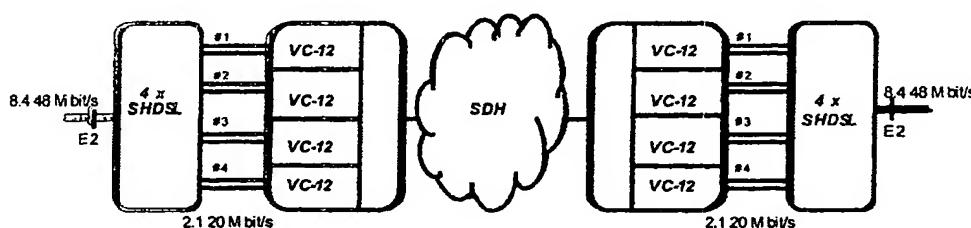
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(54) Title: METHOD OF TRANSPORTING DATA STREAMS THROUGH AN SDH SWITCHED NETWORK

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(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses a method transporting bit rates through Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) switched networks with bit rates not specified in the SDH standard. According to the present invention, a bit stream is demultiplexed onto a number of SHDSL lines which in turn are mapped into SDH C-12 data containers. To match the bit rates of each of the SHDSL lines to the C-12 containers, both the data bit positions (D-bits) and the unused overhead bit positions (R-bits) of the C-12 containers are utilised. The present invention is best adapted to demultiplex bit rates of about 8 Mbit/s onto four SHDSL lines as the bit rate of each of the SHDSL line then gives a perfect match of the number of repeating R-bits in the C-12 container.